



wisconsin department of  
**children & families**

1555 North Rivercenter Dr., Suite 220

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

*Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare*

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**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council  
Health and Education Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 29, 2012  
12:00 – 2:00pm  
6111 N. Teutonia Avenue**

Arlene Happach, BMCW  
Linda Davis, Chair  
Dr. Earnestine Willis, Co-Chair  
Bruce Kamradt, Wraparound  
Kathy Elertson, BMCW  
Dena Radtke, Milwaukee Public Schools  
Lucille Rosenberg, Community Volunteer  
Mary Sowinski, CCC  
Michael Boeder, IFS  
Amy Herbst, CSSW  
Francine Feinberg, META House  
Deb Walton, Aurora VNA  
Julie Brown, UW-Milwaukee MCWPPD  
Ann Leinfelder-Grove, St. Aemilian Lakeside  
Colleen McGroarty, DCF Research Unit  
Michelle Rawlings, DCF Research Unit  
Annie Davidson-Banks, Perez-Pena Ltd.  
Chris Shafer, Wraparound  
Wendy Henderson, DCF Research Unit  
Jed Richardson, UW-Madison  
Steve Smith, UW-Madison

Recorder:  
Becky Prudhomme, BMCW

Presentation on preliminary data on mobility – Wendy Henderson

- Wendy Henderson (DCF), and Jed Richardson and Steve Smith from the Value Added Research Center (VARC) distributed and discussed the IDEAS Project preliminary data on school mobility.
- Research indicates that school mobility is a risk factor for dropout, increases the risk for children being behind in school, and that attendance is a strong predictor of school achievement.
- Request was made for as much Statewide information as possible.

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- The Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) is working with the Department on a Geographical Interface System (GIS) Program that will track foster homes and correlating school transportation.
- The BMCW will pay foster parents for all transporting of children to school.
- Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is identifying an employee in the Office of Family Services who will focus on transportation.
- Improvements have been made with confidentiality and communication between MPS and the BMCW.
- Discussion was had about ensuring improvements in educational performance for children.
- Request was made for MPS staff to attend a future meeting to discuss expulsion rates at MPS and how it is affecting BMCW children.

#### Educational Liaison Report – Chris Shafer

- Chris Shafer from Wraparound distributed and discussed the July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 Education Liaison information.
- Discussion was had around validating school start dates for children.

#### Education Summit Goals Update – Arlene Happach

- In November, 2011, a team of eight, including Arlene Happach and Fredi Bove, attended the Education Summit. The team was tasked with two long-term and two short-term goals to improve education for children in Out-of-Home Care (OHC).
- The first short-term goal was to develop and consistently use a checklist to insert into the Judicial Benchbook to assist Judges with questions around education and educational stability. This has been completed.
- The second short-term goal was to increase children's enrollment in Headstart. Milwaukee was targeted for this effort. MOUs have been established to facilitate this.
- The first long-term goal was to improve the school experience for kids in youth and OHC. The Endless Dreams program will be piloted in Madison and Janesville. This is a sensitivity training for school personnel around the child welfare experience for children. The second part of this goal was to clarify communication around the fact that foster parents can approve for their foster children to attend school fieldtrips. This has been done. We are looking into open enrollment and credit transfer. If a child is in a school for only part of a year they will be able to get partial credits. Professional development has been a focus.
- The second long-term goal was to improve data sharing between agencies. The BMCW is collaborating with MPS on the IDEAS project. FERPA, the confidentiality requirements schools work under, needs to be clarified. There is an effort to increase communication between DCF Child Welfare and DPI. We will be developing a portal for child welfare workers to get individualized education data for children. Discussion is in process about gaining access to Juvenile CCAP information.

#### Discussion of opportunities to improve education status – All

- There was a vendor meeting about the Medical Home on Monday, November 26. Mid-January is the certification for the vendors and the goal is to get this up and running next year.